

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MANILA 07208 120836Z

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PM-04

NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 /045 W

-----130120Z 047471 /13

R 120702Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9615

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 7208

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, RP

SUBJECT: AQUINO CASE

REF: MANILA 5857 (PARA 8)

1. DURING CALL ON FORMER SENATOR RODRIGO ON HERRERA CASE MAY 11 (SEPTEL), EMBOFF ASKED ABOUT SENATOR AQUINO. RODRIGO, ONE OF AQUINO'S LAWYERS, HAD MET WITH HIM MAY 10. NEXT HEARING IS SET FOR MAY 23. AQUINO IS NOT YET CERTAIN WHETHER HE WILL PARTICIPATE. RODRIGO SAID CHARGE THAT RANKLES MOST IS MURDER CHARGE WHICH AQUINO CLAIMS IS TOTALLY TRUMPED UP.

2. EMBOFF ASKED WHETHER THERE HAD BEEN ANY INFORMAL CONTACT BETWEEN AQUINO FAMILY OR FRIENDS AND REGIME WITH POSSIBLE VIEW TOWARDS SETTling CASE. RODRIGO SAID THERE HAD BEEN NO SUCH CONTACT. RODRIGO ADDED AQUINO'S MILITARY LAWYER HAD SUGGESTED TO MILITARY COMMISSION POSSIBILITY OF DROPPING MURDER AND SUBVERSION CHARGES IN EXCHANGE FOR AQUINO'S PLEADING GUILTY TO ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF FIRE ARMS BUT MILITARY COMMISSION EXPRESSED NO INTEREST IN THIS KIND OF SETTLEMENT.

3. IN RESPONSE TO EMBOFF'S SPECULATION (BASED ON DISCUSSION WITH CARDINAL SIN) THAT MAJORITY OF MILITARY COMMISSION UNWILLING TO CONVICT AQUINO, RODRIGO SAID HE HAD HEARD THAT COMMISSION WOULD FIND AQUINO GUILTY AND SENTENCE HIM TO FIRING  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MANILA 07208 120836Z

SQUAD. "MAGNANIMOUS" PRESIDENT MARCOS WOULD COMMUTE SENTENCE. RODRIGO SAID THIS IS ONE REASON WHY AQUINO IS CONSIDERING PARTICIPATING ACTIVELY IN TRAIL. HE DOES NOT WANT PROVIDE MARCOS OPPORTUNITY FOR SUCH "MAGNANIMITY."

4. COMMENT: AQUINO FAMILY HAS ALWAYS FEARED FORMER SENATOR WOULD BE SENTENCED TO DEATH AND THEN WOULD HAVE SENTENCE

COMMUTED BY PRESIDENT WHO WOULD REMAND HIM TO ORDINARY JAIL.  
SENATOR SALONGA WAS PROPOUNDING THIS THESIS OVER A YEAR AGO.  
WE CONTINUE TO DOUBT MARCOS WOULD ACTUALLY PERMIT AQUINO BE  
CONDEMNED TO DEATH. RODRIGO'S BELIEF THAT THERE NO CONTACT  
BETWEEN AQUINO SUPPORTERS AND PALACE IS DISCOURAGING IN  
VIEW PRESIDENT AND MRS. MARCOS' COMMENTS DURING RECENT  
VISIT OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY HOLBROOKE. WE SHALL BE  
TALKING WITH MEMBERS OF AQUINO FAMILY IN NEXT FEW DAYS TO  
GET BETTER READING ON WHAT AQUINO MAY BE PLANNING AS FAR AS  
HIS DEFENSE IS CONCERNED, ALTHOUGH AQUINO HIMSELF SEEMS  
AMBIVALENT ABOUT HIS PRECISE COURSE OF ACTION.  
STULL

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MURDER, DETENTION, COURT PROCEEDINGS, PRISONERS WELFARE  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 12-May-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977MANILA07208  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770168-0447  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** MANILA  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1977/newtext/t19770566/aaaacelh.tel  
**Line Count:** 74  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 49d7b695-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION EA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 77 MANILA 5857  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 23-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 2550091  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** AQUINO CASE  
**TAGS:** SHUM, RP, (AQUINO)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/49d7b695-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009